

HN16 RUDENKO

BY CHARLES H. KLENSCH  
MOSCOW, JULY 23--(INS)--SOVIET AIR MARSHAL S. I. RUDENKO SAID  
TONIGHT THE REASON SOVIET PILOTS WERE NOT ORDERED TO SHOOT AT ALLEGED  
AMERICAN PLANES WHICH REPUTEDLY FLEW OVER WESTERN RUSSIA WAS BECAUSE  
THE SOVIETS DID NOT WANT TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL TENSION.  
RUDENKO MADE THE STATEMENT TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AT THE EGYPTIAN  
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. HE WAS ONE OF NEARLY A DOZEN SOVIET MARSHALS TO  
ATTEND AN EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY.  
THE SOVIET DEPUTY AIR FORCE CHIEF SAID THE AMERICAN PLANES, ALLEGED  
TO HAVE "INVADED" SOVIET AIR SPACE IN EARLY JULY, WERE FLYING AT  
EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDES AND COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY MARKINGS.  
HE SAID THEY WERE TOO FAR AWAY FROM SOVIET FLIERS WHO SPOTTED THEM  
FROM THE AIR.

BUT RUDENKO ADDED:

"OUR FLIERS KNOW AMERICAN AIRCRAFT TYPES."

ASKED WHY THE RUSSIANS DID NOT SHOOT AT THE ALLEGED AMERICAN PLANES  
AS THEY HAD DONE IN THE PAST OVER THE SEA OF JAPAN AND IN THE BALTIC,  
RUDENKO REPLIED:

"OUR AIRCRAFT HAD INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO SHOOT. YOU KNOW WHAT OUR  
POLICY IS NOW -- TO AVOID SHARPENING INTERNATIONAL TENSION."

RUDENKO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EACH SUCH CASE WOULD BE DECIDED  
INDIVIDUALLY. SOVIET FLIERS WERE ORDERED TO CONTACT HEADQUARTERS FOR  
INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FIRING.

RUDENKO SAID HEADQUARTERS FOR INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FIRING.

RUDENKO SAID HEADQUARTERS WOULD DECIDE ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

"IF IT IS A CASUAL VIOLATION OF SOVIET BORDER AIR SPACE, THEY HAVE  
INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO SHOOT. BUT IF IT IS DELIBERATE AND CONTINUOUS,  
THEY WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY."

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, RUDENKO WAS ASKED, IF THE PLANES THE RUSSIANS  
THOUGHT WERE AMERICAN FLEW OVER AGAIN.

HE REPLIED:

"YOU SAW WHAT THE NOTE (TO WASHINGTON) SAID -- IT WOULD BE  
AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY."

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